

## *Small Fruits*

### **BLUEBERRY**

Blueberries require a well-drained acidic (pH of 6.0 or lower) soil and high in peat moss. They should be grown in full sun to part shade, with a good supply of water during fruit production. Blueberries have shallow roots that seldom reach beyond the drip line of the plant. It is a good idea to mulch around the plant to shade the roots and help retain moisture. Good snow cover and constant cold are essential for the winter survival of the blueberry.

### **CHERRY**

Sour hardy cherry trees like the Choke Cherry are perfectly adapted to life in Alberta. The trees grow best in full sun with fertile, moist and well-draining soil. Roots of the cherry tree will emerge from the ground if water is insufficient.

### **CURRANT + GOOSEBERRY**

These hardy shrubs produce tart fruit that is perfect for jamming and pies. The shrubs enjoy full sun with afternoon shade and fertile soil that is moist and well-draining. For good berry production provide shelter from wind and regular access for upkeep. Mulching around the root will keep them cool and retain moisture.

### **ELDERBERRY**

Elderberry is a hardy shrub that requires little attention and will tolerate most soil conditions well. The elderberry grows in full sun or partial shade and once established will tolerate dry soil. Elderberry shrubs sucker and can look untidy if not pruned. The raw berries are edible but unpalatable. Too many raw berries will cause nausea.



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### **GOJI**

Goji berries, also called wolfberries, have been grown in the Himalayan valley for hundreds of years. Traditional Chinese folk medicine uses them to cure a variety of ailments. Goji berry bushes grow to be one to three meters high and require full sun, at least 8 hours. The soil should be rich with lots of organic material and well-draining. The berries are delicate when on the plant, they cannot be picked by hand. Instead they are gently shaken from the vine. Frequently they are set out in the sun to dry, where they become slightly chewy.

### **GRAPE**

Grapevines provide fresh fruit for eating, juice or winemaking. The vines will grow up any structure making it great for adding privacy and shade. Grapes require well-drained acidic soil and a warm, sunny spot. After planting, prune back to 2 or 3 strong buds. Next spring cut back last year's growth to 4 or 5 strong buds. In subsequent years prune back all previous year's growth, leaving no more than 30 buds on each plant.

### **HONEYBERRY (HASKAP)**

Haskap is an amazingly hardy, high yielding berry bush that is relatively new to North America. Honeyberry is a compact rounded shrub with dark green foliage in summer turning yellow in the fall. Closely related to the honeysuckle. The honeyberry will grow and spread to 5 ft. The honeyberry requires full sun and is hardy to zone 3. It has yellowish-white flowers in summer followed by bluish, edible berries in the fall.



### **RASPBERRY**

Raspberries are hardy, popular, and easy to grow fruit bearing plants. The raspberry will produce most fruit growing in full sun but can tolerate partial shade. The plant needs to be grown in an area with protection from the wind. Raspberries like deep, fertile soil so it is recommended to amend soil annually with organic matter. Watering is important to establishing and maintaining plants. There is inadequate rainfall therefore supplemental water is necessary. This is especially important when plants are blooming all the way up to harvesting. If raspberries do not receive enough water the berries and yield will be affected.

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### **SASKATOON**

These prairie hardy shrubs are native to the area and produce delicious edible berries in the summer. Saskatoons grow well in full sun or light shade with fertile, acidic, moist and well-drained soil. To encourage new growth prune off awkward, diseased or damaged stems and leave only the strongest and healthiest stems. In the wild saskatoons are usually found near water and make great pond or streamside plants.

### **SEABUCKTHORN**

The seabuckthorn's silvery leaves provide great contrast in the garden throughout the summer with particularly attractive bright orange berries which remain on the tree throughout the winter. Seabuckthorn prefers full sun and dry alkali soils.

It is more suitable along roadsides or out of the way plantings because of its formidable thorns. Sea Buckthorn can be pruned to form a short tree or left to grow naturally to form a round bush. The Sea Buckthorn has suckering habits and a male and female plant are needed to produce fruit. The fruit contains the highest known concentration of Vitamin C and are widely known to have medicinal properties.



### **STRAWBERRY**

One of the most popular fruiting plants for home gardens. Strawberries prefer a sunny site that is protected from strong winds and a rich, well-drained soil. Annual addition of organic matter is recommended to keep soils rich and loose. Strawberries are shallow rooted so watering is important in getting plants established and thriving. Mulching is beneficial as it helps prevent soil from splashing onto the berries, discourages weeds, keeps soil moist, protects from birds and provides extra protection in the winter.